

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber for a laser therapy apparatus, comprising:
  - a core which is provided as a center of the optical fiber;
  - a clad which is coaxial with the core and covers the outside of the core;
  - a protective layer that is coaxial with the core and the clad, ~~and covers the protective layer~~  
partially covering the outside of the clad to expose a tip-side surface of the clad; and
  - a titanium compound to be attached on a tip portion of the optical fiber.
2. (Original) An optical fiber as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the optical fiber is a quartz fiber.
3. (Original) An optical fiber as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the titanium compound attaches on at least exposed portion of the clad
4. (Original) An optical fiber as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the titanium compound is titanium oxide.
5. (Currently Amended) A laser therapy apparatus comprising:
  - an optical source that emits a laser beam; and
  - a light-guiding part for irradiating the laser beam to a target area to be treated, in which at least a tip portion of the light-guiding part is formed of an optical fiber, the optical fiber

comprises:

a core which is provided as a center of the optical fiber;

a clad which is coaxial with the core and covers the outside of the core;

a protective layer that is coaxial with the core and the clad, ~~and covers the protective layer~~  
partially covering the outside of the clad to expose a tip-side surface of the clad; and

a titanium compound to be attached on a tip portion of the optical fiber. (Original)

6. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the titanium compound attaches on the tip portion of the optical fiber by a laser beam after contacting the tip portion of the optical fiber with titanium oxide powders

7. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the optical fiber is a quartz fiber.

8. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the titanium compound attaches on at least exposed portion of the clad.

9. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the titanium compound is titanium oxide.

10. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the optical fiber is detachable from the light-guiding part.

11. (Currently Amended) A laser therapy apparatus, comprising:
  - an optical source for emitting a laser beam and a light-guiding part for irradiating the laser beam to a target area to be treated, where at least a tip portion of the light-guiding part is formed of an optical fiber, wherein
    - a protective layer on a tip portion of the optical fiber is partially removed to expose a side surface of a clad,
    - the tip portion of the optical fiber is brought into in contact with a titanium compound, and
    - the titanium compound is attached on the tip portion of the optical fiber by a laser beam radiation from the optical fiber.
12. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the titanium compound attaches on the tip portion of the optical fiber by the laser beam after contacting the tip portion of the optical fiber with titanium oxide powders.
13. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the optical fiber is a quartz fiber.
14. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the titanium compound is attached on at least exposed portion of the clad.

15. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the titanium compound is titanium oxide.

16. (Original) A laser therapy apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the optical fiber is detachable from the light-guiding part.

17-20. (Cancelled)